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15 July 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Meeting held at 1430, 10 July 1958, Main Treasury Building

SUBJECT: Consideration of the Entry of Polish M/V Fryderyk Chopin into Wilmington, North Carolina and Pensacola; Discussion of Proposed Visit of Russian R/V Vityaz

REFERENCE: Memorandum of 9 July 1958 on Entry of Various Vessels into U. S. Ports under the Port Security Program

Participants: A Gilmore Flues, Asst Secretary of Treasury
Rear Admiral J. A. Hirschfield, Asst Commandant, USCG
Captain Q. E. Walsh, Aide to the Assistant Secretary
Myles J. Ambrose, Asst to the Secretary for Law Enforcement

James P. Hendrick, Asst to the Secretary

Matthew Marks, Treasury

Rear Admiral Robert J. Stroh, DOD--Navy

25X1A9a Edmond J. Dorsz, SCA--State

CIA

1. Polish M/V Fryderyk Chopin

Subject vessel arrived in New York on 10 July 1958 and was scheduled to call at Wilmington, North Carolina on 15 July 1958; Pensacola on 22 July 1958; New Orleans on 24 July 1958; Galveston on 27 July 1958; and Houston on 29 July 1958 to discharge miscellaneous cargo and to load grain and cotton under the U. S.-Polish economic agreement. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the granting of exceptions for the entries into Wilmington and Pensacola. Admiral Hirschfield said that the Coast Guard had no personnel in Pensacola to conduct boarding and search procedures and would have to bring such personnel from New Orleans or Mobile. Admiral Stroh, DOD, said that he was concerned about the entry of this vessel into Pensacola in view of the naval and air establishments there, the nature of work conducted at these bases and the possibilities this presented, including the acquisition of communications intelligence by the Poles. He further stated that he was concerned with the continuing pattern of exceptions permitting entries of Polish vessels into port areas other than the ten major areas as permitted by NSC Action No. 1781. The State member said that Vityaz would unload peat moss at Wilmington and 70 automobiles at Pensacola but he did not know whether she would lift cargo at these ports. Mr. Flues suggested that entry be permitted at Wilmington but that the Poles be advised that the vessel would have to call at Mobile instead of Pensacola. It was so decided with State non-concurring for the record.

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A solution was sought for the continuing pattern of exceptions necessitated by calls of Polish vessels at other than the ten major port areas and it was suggested that the State Department inform the Polish Government that their vessels could call only at these ten areas. It was also suggested that in unusual cases exceptions could be made but that these cases should be of an emergency nature and not based on commercial preference or advantage; the Poles would not be informed of this possibility. State representative is checking this procedure with his Department and Treasury is checking the NSC security people with regard to providing a suitable cover statement in specifying these ten port areas to the Polish Government.

2. Russian R/V Vityaz

State and Treasury (Mr. Ambrose) representatives reported on a discussion which had taken place that morning in a sub-committee of ICIS dealing with subject vessel. The ICIS sub-committee had expressed the feeling that their responsibility did not encompass the entry of the vessel, which properly belonged with the Port Security Committee, and were somewhat confused regarding DOD's position as reported in referenced memorandum. (Apparently DOD's linking of surveillance of this vessel during her stay with her entry had been reported by Dornaz and/or Ambrose at the ICIS sub-committee meeting). Admiral Stroh said that DOD concurrence for this entry without boarding and search procedures was not conditional on ICIS approval and it was his understanding that entry without these usual restrictions was based on political and public vessel considerations.

There was general discussion of the covert surveillance (the only type contemplated) of this vessel while in port by passing Coast Guard or Harbor Patrol vessels, local police, dock personnel, visits by U. S. scientists (?), and electronic surveillance. It was reported that the ICIS proposed to maintain surveillance by the FBI and INS of the 77 Soviet scientists aboard the vessel when they come ashore. (Comment - OSI prepared a memorandum for State Department (presumably in April 1958) on these proposed visits of Vityaz. I have advised OO/C and S/FM of these visits and OO/C will inform their field offices in Honolulu and San Francisco. However, there may be other parts of this Agency with an interest who have not been informed and consideration should be given to informing requirements components.)

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